



SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF 10/1/03 to 9/30/05

**PREPARED BY THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

INTRODUCTION

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is an aggregate of several funding sources that is distributed in block grants by the federal government to the states and territories. The majority of the funds are to be used to provide child care services to families who meet certain income and need criteria. A portion of the funding (at least 4% of the block grant amount) is to be used for activities to improve the quality of child care. Another portion (not to exceed 5% of the block grant amount) is to be used to pay for costs of administering the CCDF.

The purpose of the CCDF is to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of child care services. Every two years, states and territories receiving CCDF funds must prepare and submit to the federal government a plan detailing how these funds will be allocated and expended.

This summary highlights the major provisions, activities, and services that are contained in California's proposed CCDF State Plan for the period from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2005.

PLAN OVERVIEW

Part 1 of the State Plan describes how the federal CCDF dollars and activities will be administered. The California Department of Education serves as the Lead Agency and, through its contractors and other State agencies, administers and implements all services, programs, and activities funded under the CCDF, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of the State Plan.

Part 2 describes how the CCDF child care program was developed, and in particular, the consultation, coordination and partnerships that occurred in developing this proposed State Plan.

Part 3 describes the child care services offered under this Plan. Included are descriptions of the:

- Range of child care services provided;
- Payment rates for the provision of child care;
- Eligibility criteria for child care services;
- Priority rules for serving children;
- Information about the sliding scale for child care services; and
- Certificate (voucher) payment program.

The Plan identifies a full range of child care and development services that are offered throughout the State in both licensed and license-exempt settings, including centers, family child care homes, the home of kith or kin, and the child's home. It also provides a description of family fees for child care and development services using a sliding scale, based on family income and family size. The Plan specifies that the CCDF provides services to children from birth to thirteen years of age, with services available to eighteen years of age for a child with a physical or mental incapacity.

Part 4 describes processes with parents, including:

- The process for a family to apply for or receive child care services;
- The length of eligibility for CCDF services;
- How the State maintains a record of substantiated parent complaints and makes such information available to the public; and
- The procedure for affording parents unlimited access to their children while in care.

Child care and development services will be provided either through direct service contracts with centers or family child care networks, or through a certificate system used by Alternative Payment Programs and county welfare departments.

Part 5 describes the activities and services to improve the quality and availability of child care and development services, and a description of the state's progress related to the federal initiative, *"Good Start, Grow Smart."*

5.1 Quality Improvement Activities: Federal statute requires that at least four percent of the CCDF allocation be used for quality improvement activities. An estimated \$98,538,600 will be expended on quality improvement activities in California for each of the two years covered by this Plan. The proposed quality improvement activities include:

❖ *Infant/Toddler Activities:*

- Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (PITC) Institutes
- Infant/Toddler Specialists for Healthline
- Start-Up and Resource Grants
- Child Care Initiative Project with an Infant/Toddler Focus
- PITC Regional Support Networks
- Inclusion of Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
- Expansion of the PITC Institutes
- Community College Demonstration Sites
- Family Child Care Association Development Project

- ❖ *Resource and Referral Programs*
 - Support for the statewide system of Child Care Resource and Referral programs in every county
- ❖ *School-Age Child Care Activities*
 - Before-and After-School Program Grants
 - Training and Stipends for School-Age Program Professionals
 - School-Age Curriculum and Materials Development and Distribution
- ❖ *Comprehensive Consumer Education*
 - Consumer Education Campaign
 - 800-KIDS-793 Phone Line for Parents
- ❖ *Grants or Loans to Providers to Assist in Meeting State or Local Standards*
 - Facilities Renovation and Repair Grant
 - Instructional Materials Grant
- ❖ *Monitoring of Compliance with Licensing and Regulatory Requirements*
 - Desired Results System for Children and Families
 - Evaluation of the Quality Improvement Activities
 - TrustLine Registry and Self-Certification of License-Exempt Providers
 - Subsidized TrustLine Applicant Reimbursement
 - License Enforcement for Child Care Programs
 - Includes the Child Care Advocacy Program
- ❖ *Professional Development, including Training, Education and Technical Assistance*
 - Child Development Training Consortium
 - Technical Assistance to Child Care Providers for Facilities Financing
 - Desired Results Field Training
 - School Readiness and Regional Support
 - Training TANF Recipients as Child Care Teachers
 - Child Development Permit Matrix Professional Growth Advisors
 - *Family Child Care At Its Best* Project – University of California, Davis
 - Child Care Initiative Project
 - Exempt Provider Outreach and Training
- ❖ *Improving Salaries and Other Compensation for Child Care Providers*
 - California Early Childhood Mentor Program
 - Stipend for Permit
 - Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program
 - Child Care Salary and Retention Incentive Program
- ❖ *Activities in Support of Early Learning, Literacy, and Numeracy Development*
 - English Language Learners' Support
 - Public Broadcasting Preschool Education Project

- Prekindergarten Learning and Development Guidelines
 - Includes School Readiness Articulation Project
- ❖ *Activities to Promote Inclusive Child Care*
 - Map to Inclusive Child Care
 - Inclusion of Children with Disabilities and Special Needs
- ❖ *"Healthy Child Care America" and Other Health Activities, including those designed to promote social and emotional development of children*
 - Healthline
 - Health and Safety Training for Licensed and License-Exempt Providers
- ❖ *Other Quality Activities Consistent with the Purposes and Requirements of the CCDF*
 - Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils
 - Centralized Eligibility List
 - Child Care Accreditation Project
 - Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

5.2 "Good Start, Grow Smart" Planning and Development: This required section of the Plan describes the state's progress toward developing voluntary early learning guidelines on language, literacy, pre-reading, and numeracy; the state's plan for education and training of child care providers; and the plan for coordination across early childhood programs and funding streams.

Note: Good Start, Grow Smart defines "early learning guidelines" as research-based, measurable expectations about what children should know (understand) and do (competencies and skills) in different domains of learning. California's *Desired Results Developmental Profile* meets this definition, as contrasted with California's *Prekindergarten Learning and Development Guidelines* that provide a framework for quality early care and education.

Part 6 describes the health and safety requirements for child care providers in centers, group homes, family child care homes, and in-home settings that are paid with CCDF dollars. This part includes descriptions of how State licensing requirements are enforced and how assurances are made that children receiving CCDF funded child care are appropriately immunized.